

10/577825

IAP17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 01 MAY 2006

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (new). A household appliance for integrating into a section of a worktop, comprising:

an operating strip containing at least one operating element and having a supporting surface on a lower side thereof for supporting the household appliance on the worktop;

wherein said operating strip is substantially produced by forming or milling.

Claim 18 (new). The household appliance according to claim 17, wherein said operating strip has a material thickness that changes in dependence on given requirements.

Claim 19 (new). The household appliance according to claim 17, wherein said operating strip consists of a semi-finished product made of solid material.

Claim 20 (new). The household appliance according to claim 17, wherein said operating strip is formed with at least one recess for an appliance component.

Claim 21 (new). The household appliance according to claim 20, wherein said recess together with said supporting surface is constructed on an underside of said operating strip.

Claim 22 (new). The household appliance according to claim 20, wherein said operating strip is formed with at least one mounting recess wherein a housing-side fixing flange of a housing portion is in abutment with said operating strip.

Claim 23 (new). The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein said

housing-side fixing flange engages in said at least one mounting recess of the operating strip offset backwardly relative to said supporting surface or flush with said supporting surface.

Claim 24 (new). The household appliance according to claim 20, wherein said at least one recess is substantially surrounded by said supporting surface of said operating strip.

Claim 25 (new). The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein said mounting recess has an edge surrounding said housing-side fixing flange substantially with a form lock.

Claim 26 (new). The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein an inside of said mounting recess of said operating strip has a plug-in recess formed therein for inserting a corresponding plug-in portion on said housing portion.

Claim 27 (new). The household appliance according to claim 26, which further comprises a plastic adapter disposed on said plug-in portion and configured for inserting said plug-in portion with a form lock in said plug-in recess of said operating strip.

Claim 28 (new). The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein said housing-side fixing flange is connected to said operating strip by way of a screw connection.

Claim 29 (new). The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein an inside of said mounting recess of said operating strip is formed with a mounting surface, and said fixing flange comes into detachable abutment with said mounting surface.

Claim 30 (new). The household appliance according to claim 22, wherein said mounting recess is one of a plurality of mounting recesses spaced apart from one

another are formed in the underside of said operating strip.

Claim 31 (new). The household appliance according to claim 30, wherein at least one recess for said operating element is disposed between said mounting recesses.

Claim 32 (new). The household appliance according to claim 31, wherein said mounting recess and/or said at least one recess for said operating element are arranged one after the other in a row.

Claim 33 (new). The household appliance according to claim 17, wherein said operating strip is formed with a recess for receiving an operating element of the appliance and with one or more mounting recesses for receiving a housing-side fixing flange, and wherein said mounting recesses and said recess for said operating element are disposed in a row.